

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (new): A wiper spring for applying additional spring force to a wiper arm of a vehicle wiper assembly having a spring loaded hinge connection with a drive arm of the wiper assembly to assist in maintaining a wiper blade on the wiper arm in contact with a surface of the vehicle to be wiped during use of the wiper assembly, the wiper spring comprising a length of spring wire having a first hook-like end portion at one end shaped to slide over the drive arm from one side and a second hook-like end portion at an other end shaped to hook over the wiper arm, the hook-like end portions at both ends of the spring wire being generally U-shape, each including a closed end, an open end opposite the closed end, and opposite sides, the first hook-like end portion being in a plane that is generally rearwardly and upwardly angled relative to the axis of an intermediate length of the spring wire and being on one side of the intermediate length with the open end of the first hook-like end portion generally facing the axis of the intermediate length, the second hook-like end portion being in a second plane that is generally perpendicular to the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire and extending vertically and laterally relative to the one side of the intermediate length with the open end of the second hook-like end portion generally facing downwardly, and a

downwardly angled bend in the intermediate length of the spring wire adjacent the second hook-like end portion.

Claim 20 (new): The wiper spring of claim 19 further comprising at least one upwardly extending spring loop in the intermediate length of the spring wire intermediate the first hook-like end portion and the downwardly angled bend.

Claim 21 (new): The wiper spring of claim 19 wherein the downwardly angled bend has a bend angle of approximately 15° to 25° relative to the general axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire.

Claim 22 (new): The wiper spring of claim 21 wherein the first hook-like end portion is in a general plane that extends generally rearwardly and upwardly at an angle of approximately 10° to 20° relative to the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire.

Claim 23 (new): The wiper spring of claim 19 further comprising a plastic protective coating covering the length of spring wire.

Claim 24 (new): In combination, a vehicle wiper assembly comprising a drive arm, a wiper arm, and a spring loaded hinge connection between the wiper arm and drive arm for urging the wiper arm in one direction relative to the drive arm about the hinge connection to urge a wiper blade mounted on the wiper arm toward a surface of the

vehicle to be wiped upon installation of the wiper assembly on a vehicle, and a wiper spring for applying additional spring force to the wiper arm for urging the wiper arm in the same direction relative to the drive arm, the wiper spring comprising a length of spring wire having a first hook-like end portion at one end slid over the drive arm from one side and a second hook-like end portion at the other end hooked over the wiper arm, the first hook-like end portion having a generally U-shape including a closed end and an open end opposite the closed end that is slipped over the drive arm from the one side and opposite sides that respectively engage inwardly and outwardly facing surfaces of the drive arm, and the second hook-like end portion having a generally U-shape including a closed end and an open end opposite the closed end that is hooked over the wiper arm in spaced relation from the hinge connection with opposite sides of the second hook-like end portion adjacent opposite sides of the wiper arm, the first hook-like end portion being in a plane that is rearwardly and upwardly angled relative to the axis of an intermediate length of the spring wire and extending from the one side of the intermediate length with the open end of the first hook-like end portion generally facing the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire, and the second hook-like end portion being in a second plane that is generally perpendicular to the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire and extending vertically and laterally relative to the one side of the intermediate length with the open end of the second hook-like end portion generally facing downwardly, and a downwardly angled bend in the intermediate length of the spring wire adjacent the second hook-like end portion.

Claim 25 (new): The combination of claim 24 further comprising at least one upwardly extending spring loop in the intermediate length of the spring wire intermediate the first hook-like end portion and the downwardly angled bend.

Claim 26 (new): The combination of claim 24 wherein the downwardly angled bend has a bend angle of approximately 15° to 25° relative to the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire.

Claim 27 (new): The combination of claim 26 wherein the first hook-like end portion is in a general plane that extends at an upward and rearward angle of approximately 10° to 20° relative to the axis of the intermediate length of the spring wire.